

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W

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R 031737Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0883

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: SPD STILL GRAPPLING WITH "UGLY GERMAN" PROBLEM

REF: BONN 12873, BONN 10864

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BEGIN SUMMARY: IN AN EFFORT TO PUT TO REST THE FOREIGN

CRITICISM OF WEST GERMAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE BAN ON EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE SPD INVITED EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO A MEETING IN THE BONN SUBURBS ON JULY 30. FRG JUSTICE MINISTER VOGEL AND BUNDESTAG DEPUTY LIEDTKE, WHO IS AN EXPERT ON CIVIL SERVICE QUESTIONS, ATTEMPTED TO TURN ASIDE RECENT CRITICISM OF THE 1972 "RADIKALEN-ERLASS," WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO SET STANDARDS GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. ACCORDING TO ONE SPD PARTICIPANT, THE EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS PRESENT WERE NOT ENTIRELY REASSURED, BUT THEY DID GET THE MESSAGE THAT FOREIGN CRITICISM COULD ONLY HELP THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THE OCTOBER 3 BUNDESTAG ELECTION. SPD OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE WORST IS OVER AND THAT NOW THEIR FELLOW SOCIALISTS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED ON THE SUBJECT. END SUMMARY

1. MEETING IN THE BONN SUBURB OF KOENIGSWINTER, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST PARTIES IN BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS AND SWITZERLAND MET, AT THE INVITATION OF THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, TO DISCUSS GERMAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT OF RADICALS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE. JUSTICE MINISTER VOGEL AND BUNDESTAG DEPUTY LIEDTKE ATTEMPTED TO CALM THE EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS' FEARS THAT THE WEST GERMANS WERE ENGAGED IN A WITCH HUNT AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND OTHER LEFTISTS.

2. THERE IS SOME DIFFERENCE AS TO THE INTENSITY OF THE CRITICISM AMONG THE VARIOUS EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES. THE FRENCH AND THE DUTCH ARE THE MOST VOCAL, WHILE THE BELGIANS AND DANES ARE SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED IN THEIR CRITICISM. MITTERAND, ACCORDING TO ONE SPD OFFICIAL, FEELS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO TAKE A STAND ON THE ISSUE TO AVOID THE COMMUNISTS PREEMPTING HIM AT HOME. IN ADDITION, MITTERAND HOPES TO PICK UP SOME VOTES AMONG FRENCH BOURGEOISIE VOTERS BY TAKING A PUBLIC ANTI-GERMAN LINE. THE SPD IS RELATIVELY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE PROBLEM, REALIZING THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEMANDS ARE PARAMOUNT IN FRANCE AS THEY ARE IN THE FEDERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPUBLIC. NEVERTHELESS, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SOCIALISTS IN EUROPE MIGHT UNWITTINGLY HELP THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION.

3. THE WEST GERMANS EXPLAINED AT THE MEETING THAT THE FIGURE OF SOME 500,000 SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS TAKING PLACE IN THE FRG IS GROSSLY EXAGGERATED. ACCORDING TO VOGEL, THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF ROUTINE COMPUTER

SEARCHES OF APPLICANTS, BUT THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS WAS MUCH SMALLER, AND THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVICE APPLICANTS ACTUALLY REJECTED NUMBERED IN THE HUNDREDS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE GERMANS FEEL THEY WERE SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL IN BLUNTING FOREIGN CRITICISM, THEIR SISTER PARTIES IN EUROPE ARE STILL CONCERNED THAT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF A "RAKALENERLASS" WILL CREATE A GENERATION OF CONFORMISTS IN THE FRG. THE WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS ALSO FEAR THAT, SHOULD THE CDU/CSU BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WOULD EVEN BE MORE HARSH IN APPLYING THE BAN ON RADICALS

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IN THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS
ASKED WHY THE WEST GERMANS DID NOT BAN THE RADICAL PARTIES IF THEY WERE A THREAT TO INTERNAL SECURITY. IF THEY WERE NOT A THREAT, THEN MEMBERSHIP SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT.

5. ONE SPD OFFICIAL TOLD US IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE WEST GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP) WAS BEHIND MUCH OF THE CRITICISM COMING FROM ABROAD. THE DKP, FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDES MATERIALS, OFTEN ACCURATE, ON PARTICULAR CASES, WHICH THEN THE OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SPD. AT THE WARSAW YOUTH CSCE MEETING, THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS ATTEMPTED TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION CRITICIZING THE WEST GERMANS ON THE ISSUE OF BANNING MEMBERS OF LEGAL POLITICAL PARTIES FROM ENTERING THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE FRG YOUNG SOCIALIST DELEGATION WAS SUCCESSFUL IN KILLING THE RESOLUTION BY THREATENING TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS - CRITICIZING THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR FOR VIOLATING CIVIL LIBERTIES. REPORTEDLY, THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS WANTED TO INCLUDE A SIMILAR RESOLUTION, CRITICIZING THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AT THE RECENT MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN EAST BERLIN, BUT SOME OF THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES OPPOSED THE IDEA.

6. THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE NOT CONVINCED FULLY THEIR SISTER PARTIES THAT ALL IS WELL ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, THEY MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO THEIR SOCIALIST FRIENDS THAT PUBLIC CRITICISM FROM ABROAD ONLY SERVED TO STRENGTHEN THE OPPOSITION. THEY TOLD THE EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BLUNTLY, "IF YOU WANT TO SEE A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AFTER OCTOBER 3, JUST KEEP UP THE PUBLIC CRITICISM*"

7. SOME OF THE FOREIGN CRITICISM HAS TOUCHED A SENSI-

TIVE NERVE WITHIN THE FRG, PARTICULARLY INSIDE THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HOWEVER,
WILL MAKE NO MOVE TO CHANGE THE SITUATION BEFORE THE
ELECTION. IF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT SURVIVES THE
OCTOBER 3 ELECTION, IT IS LIKELY THAT PRESSURE WILL
BUILD UP WITHIN THE PARTY TO REFORM THE APPLICABLE LAWS
AND REGULATIONS. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WILL INTRODUCE A CHANGE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE LAWS,
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WHICH WOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN JOBS THAT ARE SENSITIVE
FOR SECURITY REASONS AND JOBS THAT ARE NOT. FOR THE
PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE SPD WILL PLAY DOWN THE ISSUE UNTIL
AFTER THE ELECTION. FOLLOWING THIS LATEST MEETING, THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE OTHER EUROPEAN
SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN EUROPE
UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE, AT LEAST AS FAR
AS FRG DOMESTIC POLITICS ARE CONCERNED.
HILLENBRAND

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